Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 KATHMA 01497 231200Z ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CU-06 USIA-15 /032 W

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R 231024Z MAR 78

FM AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1478

UNCLAS KATHMANDU 1497

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OTRA, SCUL, NP

SUBJECT: 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF CONQUEST OF MOUNT EVEREST

1. EMBASSY HAS RECEIVED TWO DIPLOMATIC NOTES FROM MINFOREIGN AFFAIRS CONCERNING PLANS OF GON TO MARK 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF CONQUEST OF MOUNT EVEREST THIS SPRING. NOTES REQUEST EMBASSY'S ASSISTANCE IN TWO ASPECTS OF PREPARATIONS FOR THIS EVENT. (A) MINISTRY OF TOURISM WISHES TO INVITE ALL CLIMBERS WHO HAVE REACHED EVEREST SUMMIT TO PARTICIPATE IN EVENT. MINISTRY WILL BEAR LODGING AND FOOD EXPENSES FOR PERIOD INVOLVED (MAY 28 TO 30) AND WILL OFFER PROGRAM INCLUDING EXHIBITIONS, SYMPOSIUM, NON-STOP MOUNTAIN FLIGHT TO EVEREST REGION, CULTURAL SHOW AND SIGHT SEEING. THEY HAVE ASKED THAT SEVEN AMERICANS WHO HAVE CLIMBED EVEREST BE NOTIFIED OF TIS INVITATION AND THAT THEIR RESPONSES THERETO BE SOLICITED. IT SHOULD BE STRESSED THAT THERE IS NO REPEAT NO MENTION OF ANY GON INTENT TO BEAR ANY OF INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL EXPENSES. SEVEN AMERICANS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

1963 SPRING EXPEDITION - MR. JIM WHITTAKER

MR. BARRY BISHOP MR. LUTE JERSTAD MR. WILLY UNSOELD

DR. THOMAS F. HORONOBIEN

1976 BICENTENNIAL EXPEDITION - MR. CHRIS CHANDLER MR. BOB CORMAC

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(B) MINISTRY OF TOURISM HAS ALSO ASKED THAT CONCERNED MOUNTAINEERING ASSOCIATION/CLUB BE CONTACTED AND REQUESTED TO MAKE AVAILABLE "DOCUMENTS, BOOKS, ARTICLES, AND LARGE SIZED PHOTOGRAPHS AND BIO DATA OF THE SUMMITTERS DURING THEIR EXPEDITION TO MOUNT EVEREST."

2. ACTION REQUESTED: FROM OUR PERSPECTIVE AND AFTER LOCAL CONTACTS LOGICAL PLACE TO BEGIN IN RESPONDING TO ABOVE IS AMERICAN ALPINE CLUB (AAC) AND SPECIFICALLY ITS PRESIDENT, JAMES HENRIOT. CLEARLY SECOND REQUEST IS FIRECTED TO AAC, AND IN FACT LETTER SENT THIS WEEK FROM DPAO TO HENRIOT ON THIS SUBJECT. IT STRIKES AS AAC MIGHT EQUALLY BE BEST VEHICLE FOR CONTACTING SEVEN CLIMBERS AS WELL. SINCE PERCIVAL NEA/INS HAS BEEN IN CONTACT WITH AAC PREVIOUSLY THIS APPEARS TO BE LOGICAL CHANNEL. PLEASE ADVISE RESULTS AND/OR ALTERNATE SUGGESTIONS.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X Capture Date: 01 jan 1994 Channel Indicators: n/a

Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

Concepts: INVITATIONS, PROGRAMS (PROJECTS)

Control Number: n/a Copy: SINGLE Draft Date: 23 mar 1978 Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960 Decaption Note: Disposition Action: n/a

Disposition Approved on Date: Disposition Case Number: n/a Disposition Comment: Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960 Disposition Event: Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978KATHMA01497
Document Source: CORE

Document Unique ID: 00

Drafter: n/a Enclosure: n/a Executive Order: N/A Errors: N/A

Expiration: Film Number: D780129-0339 Format: TEL From: KATHMANDU

Handling Restrictions: n/a Image Path:

ISecure: 1

Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780333/aaaabboe.tel

Line Count: 73 Litigation Code IDs: Litigation Codes:

Litigation History: Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM Message ID: 96371fbf-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc

Office: ACTION NEA

Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a

Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a

Reference: n/a Retention: 0

Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED Review Content Flags:

Review Date: 29 mar 2005 **Review Event:** Review Exemptions: n/a **Review Media Identifier:** Review Release Date: N/A

Review Release Event: n/a **Review Transfer Date:** Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a

SAS ID: 3228169 Secure: OPEN Status: NATIVE

Subject: 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF CONQUEST OF MOUNT EVEREST

TAGS: OTRA, SCUL, NP

To: STATE Type: TE

vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/96371fbf-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc

Review Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

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